

WEEKLY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES REPORT

For the Week Ending 21 July 2001

GREAT LAKES & OHIO RIVER DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CELRC) KANKAKEE FEASIBILITY STUDY: Representatives of Chicago District and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) met with **Reps. Steve Buyer (R-IN-5), Gerald Weller (R-IL-11),** and staff of **Reps. Peter Visclosky (D-IN-1), Rep. Tim Roemer (D-IN-3) and Timothy Johnson (R-IL-15)** regarding the Kankakee Feasibility Study and the proposed USFWS Refuge. Also briefed were staff of **Sens. Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Richard Lugar (R-IN).** Both agencies made progress on informing Congress that USACE and the USFWS are working well together and that efforts are compatible.

(CELRP) ORMSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING: On 12 Jul 01, the ORMSS Environmental Team conducted a public scoping meetings in Evansville, IN on the subject of Cumulative Effects to support the ORMSS Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Agency representatives met with the team from 1300-1500, followed by an open public meeting from 1700-1900. In addition to the Environmental Team, representatives of the Economics, Engineering, and Plan Formulating Teams, the Project Manager and PAO were present.

(CELRN) METRO CENTER LEVEE: On 18 Jul 01, Nashville District conducted a pre-construction conference and partnering meeting for the Metro Center Levee project. This \$8 M urban levee, a Sec. 205 project, will provide flood protection for a major business park in Nashville while at the same time providing walking trails and greenways. The contractor, Hayes Construction, Houston TX, is ready to begin work. Representatives of the Nashville city government, the contractor, the AE designer, the Business Park, and Nashville District attended a very successful partnering session.

(CELRN) LAKEWOOD MARINA ISSUE: The Nashville District Real Estate office has issued a revocation notice (notice that we intend to terminate) to a marina concession, Lakewood Marina, on Old Hickory Lake in the Nashville area. The lessee has failed to remove six barges moored at the facility and used as a wave break. The District seeks removal of the hazard from the lake before one or more of the barges sink. The District first notified the lessee in Sep 00 that it believed the barges to be deteriorated to the point that they should be removed from the lake. District staff worked with the lessee since that time in an attempt to gain the removal. The revocation notice was issued only after several interim deadlines were not met. Under the notice, the lessee has 60 days from 20 Jun 01 to either begin the removal or provide evidence that a removal contract is in place and the contractor has been notified to proceed with the work. Nashville District is hopeful that the issue can be resolved prior to the 20 Aug deadline. The District has had congressional inquiries on this situation from **Sen. William Frist (R-TN)** and **Rep. Bob Clement (D-TN-5).** There has also been interest from the Nashville CBS affiliate.

(CELRB) RECREATIONAL BOATING AND DREDGING SYMPOSIUM: The Buffalo District commander presented welcoming remarks on behalf of LRD on 16 Jul 01 at the recreational boating and dredging symposium, held in Cleveland as part of the 2001 Coastal Zone Conference. Also representing the Corps were Scott Parker, Deputy for Program Management, Detroit District; and Kathy Griffin, Chief of Operations & Technical Support, Buffalo District. Symposium participants included many representatives of the Great Lakes Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and maritime and recreational boating stakeholders. The conference highlighted the challenges that lay ahead as operations and maintenance budgets continue to decline and recreational boating interests grow.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days:

(CELRN) VISIT BY ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SEC-ARMY: Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) Edward Elgart will visit Nashville District on 25 Jul 01 to receive a command briefing, discuss District contracting initiatives, and meet with contracting personnel.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CEMVR) INLAND WATERWAY USERS BOARD: Rock Island District hosted the 39th meeting of the Users Board on 17-18 Jul 01. The Users Board serves to advise the Corps of Engineers on priorities for improvements and rehabilitation to the inland navigation system and use of the Inland Waterway Trust Fund. On 17 Jul 01 the group visited Lock & Dams 11, 12, and 14 on the Mississippi River to see facilities before, during, and after rehabilitation work. Participants included Board members; the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); the DCW; and OASA(CW) and HQUSACE staff.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CEMVD) MRC LOW-WATER INSPECTION TRIP: The MVD commander and members and staff of the Mississippi River Commission will conduct the annual low-water inspection trip on 12-24 Aug 01 from St. Paul, MN, to Morgan City, LA. It is anticipated that there will be several members of Congress or staff participating. More information on this participation will be provided at a later date, but tentatively the Division expects participation by the offices of **Sens. Charles Grassley (R-IA), Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL), Fred Thompson (R-TN), Bill Frist (R-TN), and Thad Cochran (R-MS), and Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI-3), Leonard Boswell (D-IA -3), Jim Leach (R-IA -1), Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO-R), John Tanner (D-TN-8), Ronnie Shows (D-MS-4), and Billy Tauzin (R-LA-3).**

(CEMVK) JACKSON, MS, FLOOD CONTROL: On 13 Aug 01, the Vicksburg District commander and selected staff will meet with **Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)** in Jackson, MS, to discuss the Two Lakes flood control plan proposed by private entities for the Jackson, MS, area.

NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CENAB) SPRING VALLEY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE: Restoration work continues at the Korean Ambassador's residence, located on this World War I-era site in Washington, DC. Excavation in Test Pit 23 at 4825 Glenbrook was temporarily halted on 18 Jul 01 until the vapor containment structure could be upgraded in response to the continuing ordnance finds at the site. On 17 Jul, three more 75-mm rounds were discovered as Baltimore District expanded the initial pit. Based on this and the previous ordnance finds in this location, the District has deemed it an ordnance burial site, although no ordnance found anywhere in Spring Valley to date has been explosively configured. In addition to the three rounds, 14 bottles were sent to Edgewood Arsenal, MD, for testing of their contents. When the rounds and bottles were found, air monitors in the tent also had a positive detection for Lewisite, though at the lowest reportable level. None of the soil samples taken to date have been found to contain agent. Baltimore District is currently waiting for American University officials to complete their review of the CDC remediation plan before beginning soil removal there. Sampling under the comprehensive sampling plan continues, with approximately 300 properties sampled as of 19 Jul. Nearly 20 percent of the over 100 properties for which results have been received will require

follow-on grid sampling. Meanwhile, the District has obtained slightly over 50 percent of the 1,200 residential Rights of Entry needed. Meanwhile, project members are in full swing preparing for congressional hearings. These hearings will include EPA and DC Health Department participants.

(CENAP) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING: On 18 Jul 01, the Philadelphia District Engineer briefed **Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD-1)** at his Washington DC office regarding Corps initiatives to correct deficiencies related to the 1960s deepening of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The congressman is interested in timely resolution of the issues and commented that he fully supports ongoing actions and will insert congressional language to resolve several issues through authorization and appropriation.

(CENAP) SCHUYLKILL RIVER PRESS CONFERENCE: **Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA)** held a press conference, attended by Corps employees, on the shores of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia on 16 Jul 01 to express his support for environmental restoration of the lower portion of the river below Fairmount Dam. The lower river was historically developed as a heavy industrial and port area. Currently, urban decay and Brownfields are evident along major portions of the river. The deteriorated environmental and ecological conditions make it a prime candidate for restoration.

(CENAN) WAYNE, NJ, INTERIM FUSRAP STORAGE SITE: This site, also known as the W.R. Grace Site, produced thorium and buried the radioactive by-products on site. The prime contractor, Environmental Chemical Corporation, is on schedule with the site cleanup activities. The Contractor is currently continuing to ship contaminated soil and treated water off-site, backfill the decontaminated areas, and is continuing to operate a 24-hour dewatering system. To date, approximately 102,170 tons of contaminated waste materials have been removed from the site and approximately 35,160 tons of backfill materials have been placed.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CENAB) CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: On 25 Jul 01, the NAD and Baltimore District commanders are scheduled to meet with **Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD-1)** in the congressman's office.

(CENAB) BALTIMORE HARBOR TOUR: On 26 Jul 01, Baltimore District and the Maryland Port Administration will jointly host Baltimore **Mayor Martin O'Malley** for a waterborne tour of Baltimore harbor to view ongoing and planned dredging projects.

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CENWD) CASCADIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE: On 17 and 18 Jul 01, senior NWD and district staff participated in a readiness command & control (C2) exercise. This exercise examined operations plans for response to the disaster scenario known as the Cascadia Subduction Earthquake. The Cascadia Earthquake is considered by government authorities and scientific experts to be the greatest natural disaster threat facing North America. Other attendees, functioning in a Simulation Cell support role, were represented the USACE UOC, Readiness Support Center, and planning staff from South Pacific and South Atlantic Divisions.

(CENWO) MEETING WITH SENATE STAFF: On 16 July, Omaha District's Outreach Coordinator-Colorado Office met with **Sen. Wayne Allard's (R-CO)** staff in Englewood, CO, to discuss USACE programs. The senator's staff were very interested in environmental projects and the Restoration of Abandoned Mines Program (RAMS).

(CENWO) COLORADO'S "ONE DOOR TO THE CORPS": On 10 Jul 01 the Corps Colorado Service Office held an open house in Denver, CO. About 50 people representing a wide range of agencies interested in Colorado water resources development, participated, and the NWD and SPD Division commanders, along with representatives of Omaha, Sacramento, and Albuquerque Districts, supported the open house. Prior to the Open House the two Division Commanders met with Colorado **Gov. Bill Owens (R)** and representatives of several Colorado agencies. The Colorado Service Office is the "one door to the Corps" for Colorado, which is served by four Corps Districts in two Divisions.

(CENWS) SKAGIT COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION STUDY: Seattle District and Skagit County Commissioner Ken Dahlsted led the 19 Jul 01 Executive Committee meeting for this study. As the study builds momentum and moves towards a potential WRDA 2004 authorization, the Executive Committee will play an integral part in shaping and guiding the study and its findings. Members of the Executive Committee include Seattle District and NWD, Skagit County leaders and staff, and the Skagit System Cooperative, a working group for the three Indian tribes in the Skagit Basin.

(CENWW) CORPS ACTIVITIES IN IDAHO: The Walla Walla District commander and DPM met with the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources on 18 Jul 01 in Boise, ID. Topics included Corps support to Idaho and the use of rule curves in regard to water management. That same day they also met with the Mayor of Caldwell, ID, and discussed the Indian Creek Sec. 206 Project.

(CENWW) PARK ON SNAKE & CLEARWATER RIVERS: Walla Walla District staff met on 16 Jul 01 with **Rep. George Nethercutt's (R-WA-5)** field representative and the Asotin County WA, Commissioners to discuss a potential Parks and Recreation Lease for Corps property at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. The County plans to build an interpretative center for regional Lewis and Clark history, along with Hells Canyon, Clearwater, and Snake River cultural and environmental learning. The County has planning funds from the State of Washington. The District will assist the planning effort with Planning Assistance to States program funds.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CENWP) PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASA(CW) SETS VISIT: The Principal Deputy ASA (CW) is tentatively scheduled to visit Bonneville Lock and Dam on 24 Jul 01. He has expressed interest are fish, clean water and hydropower issues in the Columbia River Basin.

(CENWP) CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT SCHEDULED: Staff of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure requested Corps support for a congressional delegation to visit Pacific Coast ports to include the Port of Coos Bay, the Columbia River Channel Deepening Project and possibly the Columbia River estuary and Willamette River. The tour is planned for 27–31 August and could include as many as 25 members of Congress and their respective staff. Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) and ranking member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) would lead the delegation.

(CENWP) CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISIT SCHEDULED: Staff of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure requested Corps support for a congressional delegation visiting Pacific Coast ports - to include Coos Bay, OR, the Columbia River Channel Deepening Project, and possibly the Columbia Estuary and Willamette River. The tour is planned for 27–31 Aug 01 and could include as many as 25 members of congress and staff. Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman **Rep. John Duncan (R-TN-2)** and ranking minority member **Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4)** would lead the delegation.

PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CEPOA) REPLACEMENT HOSPITAL, FT. WAIN WRIGHT, AK: Representatives of the Tri-Service Medical Command, HQUSACE, and Alaska District met with **Rep. Dave Hobson (R-OH-7)**, House Appropriations Committee, on 20 Jul 01 in Washington, DC, on the reprogramming request for the proposed hospital project. The House has addressed the request as part of the FY01 Supplemental Military Appropriations bill.

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CEPOA) CONGRESSIONAL ALASKA TOURS: **Rep. Don Young (R-AK)** will lead a delegation of congressional leaders on various sites within Alaska during the August recess (3-12 Aug 01). On 7 Aug they will be at Kodiak, where the Corps is conducting FUDS remediation projects; and on 10 Aug they will tour Seward, AK, where the Corps is working on a harbor expansion project and renovation of a flood control tunnel project. The Corps will have representatives at both locations to respond to any inquiries. Several Congressional Staff Members, led by Greg Thom Rep. Young's office, will also tour Alaskan sites during the recess. They will visit Seward and Whittier, AK, where the Corps is working on a navigation project.

(CEPOA) SUPPORT TO ALASKA COMMND: Alaska District has prepared information in support to Alaska Command, whose commander will conduct congressional visits next week. The issues being addressed are National Missile Defense, Army and Air Force MILCON workload, and the Hospital Replacement Project at Fort Wainwright, AK.

SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CESAJ) FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BRIEFING: The Jacksonville District commander and members of his staff briefed 10 members of the Florida congressional delegation on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan on 18 Jul 01. A more detailed briefing and discussion session with congressional staff followed.

(CESAW) MOREHEAD CITY HARBOR, NC: Wilmington District has been informed by **Sen. John Edwards' (D-NC)** office that an amendment to the Senate version of the FY02 appropriations bill has passed that adds \$300,000 to Morehead City, NC, Harbor O&M for preparation of a Sec. 933 report dealing with the pump-out of dredge material from Brandt Island. This work connects with the long term Bogue Banks Shoreline Protection study, and in the near term will provide additional shore protection and beach renourishment for the beaches of Carteret County.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days:

(CESAJ) EVERGLADES BRIEFING: At the request of OASA(CW) and HQUSACE, Jacksonville District staff will brief the new Principal Deputy ASA(CW) on the Everglades on 23 Jul 01.

(CESAM) ACT/ACF AGREEMENTS POSSIBLE: The Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Compact Committees and Commissions have announced meetings to be held on 30 Jul 01, during which the commissioners could announce agreement in

principle on water allocation formulas for these basins or extend the negotiations further. In the event of an agreement, Mobile District has scheduled an Interagency In-Progress Review (IPR) for 7 Aug to initiate the 60-day public comment process. The purpose of this meeting will be to review proposed allocation formulas, agree on appropriate modeling assumptions and analytical tools, and assign agency taskings. Mobile District has an aggressive schedule that will require full commitment of all cooperating Federal and State agencies in order to complete the necessary NEPA requirements to support a Federal Commissioner decision within 255 days of an approved formula. If the States do not announce an agreement during their 30 Jul meeting, the Interagency IPR will be cancelled.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION:

Significant Activities: None

Visits of Political Significance - Next 45 Days:

(CESPN) OAKLAND HARBOR DEEPENING PCA: The Principal Deputy ASA(CW) will visit projects in San Francisco and Sacramento Districts on 23-24 Jul 01 and participate in the signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement for the Oakland Harbor Navigation Improvement (-50 Foot) Project on 24 Jul. While in the San Francisco Bay Area, he is scheduled to tour the Hamilton Army Airfield Wetlands Restoration project, which will receive much of the dredged material from the Oakland project. Oakland is one of the first projects of its kind to use nearly 100 percent of the dredged material for restoration and creation of wetland habitats. While in the area, the ASA will also visit the Bay Model and meet with project sponsors of the Petaluma and Napa River Flood Prevention Projects.

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION:

Significant Activities:

(CESWF) TEXAS STATE WATER PLANS: On 17-18 Jul 01, the Fort Worth District DDEPM participated in Stakeholders meetings in Austin, TX, providing input on policy issues for Senate Bill #1 State Water Plans. More of these meetings are being planned for mid-Aug. Policy issues will be included in the overall State Water Plan, which is currently scheduled for final approval in Jan 02 by the State Legislature.

(CESWF) DALLAS FLOODWAY PCA: Fort Worth District has been advised that the local sponsor, the City of Dallas, TX, has agreed to the final version of the Dallas Floodway Extension PCA in order to award a construction contract in the current FY. First to be constructed will be an off-channel wetland, "Cell D," near the existing wastewater treatment plant. The PCA will now be forwarded back to HQUSACE for coordination with OASA(CW).

(CESWT) KEYSTONE LAKE: Tulsa District's Public Affairs Office has received numerous calls regarding the low water level at Keystone Lake and rumors that the lake will be drawn down another 15 feet. The PAO's response has been to acknowledge the low levels and to urge patience until a meeting occurs with the water storage owners and others to determine actions to minimize drawdown. That meeting will occur later this month.

(CESWT) WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING: Two Tulsa District team members attended a Waterways Advisory Board Meeting on 9 Jul 01 at the Port of Muskogee, OK. Agenda items included the Bendway Weirs Project, storage of water for navigation, Montgomery Point Lock and Dam

funding, and the Arkansas River Navigation Study. The next board meeting will be at the Visitors Center, Lock and Dam 18, on 2 Oct.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days:

(CESWL) PINE BLUFF ARSENAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER: A groundbreaking ceremony for the Child Development Center at Pine Bluff Arsenal is scheduled for 25 Jul 01. The Little Rock District commander and several local officials will participate.

(CESWL) REGULATORY PROGRAM PUBLIC WORKSHOP: A public workshop to provide information on the Regulatory Program and to hear public concerns is scheduled in Norfork, AR, on 31 Jul 01. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and Arkansas Game & Fish Commission will also participate.

(CESWL) ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION: The annual Arkansas Conference on Waterborne Transportation has been scheduled for 7-9 Aug 01.

ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER:

Significant Activities:

(CEERD-TS) TRAINING AND FIELDING FOR DTSS-D: New Equipment Training and Fielding of the Digital Topographic Support System – Deployable (DTSS-D) to engineer terrain teams supporting FORSCOM and PACOM began during the week of 16 Jul 01. Training will be conducted from 16-27 Jul, culminating in the fielding of the equipment to the various units in Korea, Hawaii, and Fort Lewis, WA. DTSS-Ds support the operational mission requirements of terrain teams, providing terrain analysis (e.g., mobility and line-of-sight analyses), terrain visualization (3-D with fly-through capability), and product distribution in softcopy (e.g., LAN, CD ROM, 8mm) or low volume hardcopy.

Visits of Political Significance – Next 45 Days: None